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Tip #1-

When shopping for prescription medication, always ask if a generic form of the medication is available. Generic medication is cheaper than its brand-name counterpart, particularly when there is more than one generic company manufacturing the drug.

Tip #2-

The State of Arkansas regulates the sale of pharmaceutical products at retail stores and over the Internet. These regulations help stores ensure that Arkansans can purchase medications from reliable sources. Licensed Internet pharmacies are an alternative to standard retail pharmacies. Before you purchase medications from an Internet pharmacy, you should confirm that the pharmacy is licensed to do business in Arkansas. If you have a

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101 East Capitol, Suite 218
Little Rock, AR 72201
Phone: (501) 682-0190
www.arkansas.gov/asbp/

Drug Prices Are Not the Same.

** Pharmacists need to know about all of the medications you are taking to appropriately monitor your intake. If you decide to purchase drugs at different pharmacies, make sure each pharmacist you are dealing with has your complete medication list.*

[illegible]

FOR MORE INFORMATION
ABOUT SPECIFIC DRUGS AND THEIR
GENERIC ALTERNATIVES, VISIT OUR
WEB SITE AT www.ag.state.ar.us

Office of Attorney General
Mike Beebe
323 Center Street, Suite 1100
Little Rock, AR 72201
(501) 682-2007
(800) 482-8982
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Supplemental Insurance

If Medicaid or your insurance does not cover all of your prescriptions, check to see if there is any form of supplemental insurance that will help you save money on your prescription medication. Before purchasing this kind of supplemental insurance, check to see if it will indeed save you money on your medications.

Prescription Assistance Programs

for qualified individuals prescription-assistance programs offer drugs at dramatically cheaper prices. Ask if the manufacturer of the particular prescription medication you are taking has a prescription-assistance program. If so, ask if you qualify for such a program. The following are two Web sites that offer information about these programs: www.helpingpatients.org www.rxassist.org

Prescription Discount Cards

Some prescription-discount cards are sold that will offer savings on prescription medication. Before purchasing a prescription-discount card, check to see if it will actually save you money. Some prescription-discount cards may not offer the cost savings you anticipate. Be aware that these cards are not a form of insurance.

There are specific Arkansas laws regulating the use of discount cards in our state. To review the guidelines established through these laws, go to the prescription-drug information section of the Attorney General's Web site.

Letter from General Beebe



Americans are spending nearly \$140 billion a year on prescriptions, almost twice the amount spent in the early '90s, and the Congressional Budget Office projects that between 2003 and 2012 seniors will spend another \$1.8 trillion on medications.

As the most visible consumer advocate for the State, I am working hard to educate and inform Arkansans about various issues that affect all of us. In this brochure, my office has put together helpful tips for purchasing prescription drugs. I hope that you will find it to be a useful and informative guide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature of Mike Beebe in black ink. The signature is stylized, with the first letters of the first and last names being prominent.

Mike Beebe
Attorney General

GUIDE TO PURCHASING PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

